

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

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E O 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, RP  
SUBJ: PRESIDENT MARCOS' SEPTEMBER 21 REPORT TO THE NATION

SUMMARY: PRESIDENT MARCOS DELIVERED REPORT TO THE NATION AT INAUGURAL SESSION OF LEGISLATIVE ADVISORY COUNCIL SEPTEMBER 21. NINTY MINUTE SPEECH, HEAVILY LARDED WITH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STATISTICS, REVIEWED NATIONAL GAINS UNDER NEW SOCIETY IN NOW FAMILIAR TERMS. SECTION ON FOREIGN POLICY PERFUNCTORY ALTHOUGH MARCOS STRESSED TIES WITH U.S. REMAIN "DEEP AND STRONG". END SUMMARY

1. PRESIDENT MARCOS PRESIDED OVER INAUGURAL SESSION OF BATASAN BAYAN (LEGISLATIVE ADVISORY COUNCIL) IN NEW CONVENTION CENTER SEPTEMBER 21. HE EMPHASIZED "ADVISORY AND TRANSITORY NATURE" OF NEW BODY AND SAID IT WAS NOT SUBSTITUTE FOR INA. HE SAID "REFERENDUM-PLEBISCITE" SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 16 WOULD SOLVE CONSTITUTIONAL STALEMATE NOW PREVAILING. MARCOS APPOINTED CEBU GOVERNOR GULLAS ASSISTANT PRESIDING OFFICE OF LAC AND DLGCD SECRETARY RONO AS NEW BODY'S FLOOR LEADER. AFTER LAC ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY SET OF RULES AGREED ON IN "PRE ORGANIZATION CAUCUS" SEPTEMBER 20 PRESIDENT GAVE HIS REPORT TO NATION.

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2. MARCOS BEGAN BY CLAIMING THERE HAD BEEN MORE PROGRESS IN

LAST FOUR YEARS THAN IN PREVIOUS 26 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE. HE REVIEWED DOLEFUL STATE WHICH PREVAILED WHEN HE DECLARED MARTIAL LAW AND THEN PROVIDED SERIES OF STATISTICS ON EMPLOYMENT, GNP, FOOD PRODUCTION ETC. TO SUPPORT HIS THESIS. PRESIDENT THEN REVIEWED PROGRESS IN MORE DETAIL UNDER RUBRICS OF A PEACE AND SECURITY, ECONOMY, SOCIAL EQUITY, FOREIGN RELATIONS AND PROSPECTS FOR DEVELOPMENT.

3. PEACE AND SECURITY: PRESIDENT NOTED RECENT CAPTURE OF NPA LEADERSHIP, RETURN OF MUSLIM DISSIDENTS TO GOVERNMENT AND GENERAL DECLINE IN CRIME RATE. HE REITERATED THAT GREATEST DANGER TO NATION WAS SUBVERSION AND THAT ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL HEALTH OF NATION IS BEST INSURANCE AGAINST THIS DANGER. MARCOS SAID THERE WERE "STILL CONTINUING EFFORTS OF SUBVERSIVES" BUT DID NOT GET MORE SPECIFIC. PRESIDENT CLAIMED MUCH OF SUBVERSION CAUSED BY "REBELLION OF POOR" AND THEN DISCUSSED HIS GOVERNMENT'S ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS.

4. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL EQUITY: PRESIDENT SAID COUNTRY HAD COME FROM "SHORTAGE TO SELF SUFFICIENCY" GROWTH OF INDUSTRY ETC. PRESIDENT CLAIMED RECENT OIL DISCOVERIES "MAY COMPLETELY ALTER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF COUNTRY." MARCOS SAID ALL GOVERNMENT ECONOMIC PROGRAMS AIM AT BETTER LIFE FOR ALL THE PEOPLE. HE WAS WORKING TOWARD SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION THROUGH PROGRAMS SUCH AS LAND REFORM AND HAD REJECTED STRATEGY OF "EXPROPRIATION OF WEALTH" PRESIDENT CLAIMED NATIONAL BIRTH RATE WAS DECLINING AND PAID SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO EFFORTS OF MRS MARCOS WHO HAS BEEN APPOINTED MEMBER OF LAC, AND OF ITS STEERING COMMITTEE.

5. FOREIGN RELATIONS: PRESIDENT CLAIMED HIS FOREIGN POLICY HAD ANTICIPATED EVENTS. ITS CHARACTERISTICS WERE INDEPENDENCE, INNOVATION AND TOTAL SELF RELIANCE WITH NATIONAL INTEREST SUPREME CONSIDERATION. MARCOS SAID GOP CURRENTLY ENGAGED IN RENEGOTIATIONS OF MUTUAL DEFENSE, BASES, MILITARY ASSISTANCE AND ECONOMIC AGREEMENTS WITH US. HE ADDED TIES WITH US "DEEP AND STRONG" INDICATING PHILS HAD "SOUGHT AND FOUND" BASIS FOR NEW RELATIONSHIP. PRESIDENT NOTED ASEAN IMPORTANCE; MENTIONED NORMALIZATION WITH USSR, PRC AND SRV; AND CLAIMED GOP HAD WON RESPECT OF THIRD WORLD.

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6. FUTURE: LOOKING AHEAD, MARCOS QUOTED WORLD BANK REPORT'S FAVORABLE ASSESSMENT OF PHILIPPINES' ECONOMIC PROSPECTS AND THEN DISCUSSED WHAT PEOPLE MIGHT EXPECT IN NEXT FEW YEARS. HE SAID POPULATION COULD RISE TO 83.4 MILLION BY 2000 BUT GOP WORKING TO LIMIT IT TO 55 MILLION. HE SPOKE OF "BLUE REVOLUTION" (AQUACULTURE) AND EVEN OF MAJOR CANAL FROM PACIFIC OCEAN TO TAYABAS BAY TO CUT TRANSIT TIME FROM EAST COAST TO MANILA. PRESIDENT

STRESSED ALL THIS WOULD BE POSSIBLE BECAUSE NATION NOW HAD THE  
"POLITICAL WILL" TO GET THINGS DONE.

7. COMMENT: UNLIKE LAST YEAR WHEN HE ELECTRIFIED HIS AUDIENCE WITH  
ANNOUNCEMENT OF ILL FATED "PURGE", THIS YEAR'S REPORT TO THE  
NATION CONTAINED NO SUPPRISES. IT WAS A SOMETIMES NUMBING  
COMPENDIUM OF THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF HIS GOVERNMENT OVER THE  
PAST FOUR YEARS WITH PRIMARY EMPHASIS ON TECHNOCRATIC ACHIVEMENTS  
AND NOTABLE ABSENCE OF MILITARY REFERENCES. SPEECH SEEMS TO HAVE  
BEEN PRIMARILY A PRODUCT OF NEDA, DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY,  
AGRICULTURE ETC. FOREIGN POLICY SECTION WAS PERFUNCTORY  
ALTHOUGH MARCOS GAVE PRIORITY EMPHASIS TO WESTERN AND ESPECIALLY  
US RELATIONSHIP. POLITICAL CONTENT OF SPEECH UNEXCEPTIONAL AND  
VARIOUS THEMES FAMILIAR ALTHOUGH PRESIDENT CLAIMED NATION "WAS  
TURNING A PAGE IN HISTORY" AS IT CELEBRATED THE FOURTH YEAR OF  
MARTIAL LAW. MARCOS SPEECH PROBABLY SETS ABOUT THE RIGHT TONE  
FOR THE UPCOMING IMF/IBRD MEETING IN MANILA AND NO DOUBT COPIES  
WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PARTICIPANTS.  
SULLIVAN

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## Message Attributes

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